

SECRET ENCLOSURE

Macmillan



DEPARTMENT OF STATE
WASHINGTON

February 26, 1959

MEMORANDUM FOR BRIG. GEN. A. J. GOODPASTER
THE WHITE HOUSE

Pz

Subject: President's Letters to
Prime Minister Macmillan



There are enclosed for your information and files copies of the President's messages to Prime Minister Macmillan dated February 24 and 25 as well as a copy of the Acting Secretary's message to Selwyn Lloyd which were delivered to the British Embassy for transmission.

John A. Calhoun
Director
Executive Secretariat

Enclosures:

1. President's messages to Prime Minister Macmillan, February 24 and 25, 1959.
2. Acting Secretary's message to Selwyn Lloyd, February 25, 1959.

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OF CLASSIFIED ATTACHMENTS

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Can be given to Mr. [unclear]

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February 25, 1959

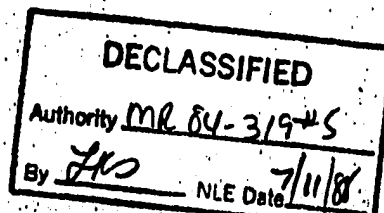
Dear Harold:

We have become so accustomed to the rudeness of the people in the Kremlin that I suppose that Khrushchev's speech of yesterday, made at a time when you were a guest in his country, should give us little reason for astonishment. Nevertheless this latest instance of deliberately bad deportment seems to me an affront to the whole free world.

In my prior messages to you I have not meant to imply that we are lacking in a readiness to be flexible in the effort to negotiate a reasonable agreement at Geneva. I think the West has proved that readiness by the concessions already made. With respect to our objection about limiting inspection by fixing a maximum number of trips permitted to teams, my only point was that I have always been somewhat fearful of getting into the numbers racket.

One thought that occurred to us here is that on this matter of trips there might be proposed some commitment that useless or unnecessarily repetitive trips would not be countenanced. Since the group decision would be controlling, this matter would be no more subject to veto than would a group decision to make an inspection. In other words, one member could not, on his own, compel a trip to a suspected incident.

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This is, of course, no more than just thinking aloud. I put it down merely to indicate our interest in the search for anything that is workable and in which we can have confidence, but at the same time that should answer any legitimate fears of the Soviets that the whole inspectional process could be turned into a wholesale seeking for military intelligence.

I know that you are working hard and earnestly in a very difficult situation. I think of you every day. At the very least the impressions you bring back will be fresh and even if, because of the intransigence of the Soviets, you accomplish nothing of greater importance than this, I feel that the trip will prove to be worthwhile.

With warm personal regard,

As ever,

DKE

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February 24, 1959

MESSAGE TO PRIME MINISTER MACMILLAN



Dear Harold:

Thank you very much for the message giving your impressions after forty-eight hours in Moscow. I have no doubt that the conclusions presented in your first paragraph are quite accurate.

We are of course aware of Khrushchev's apparent rigidity with respect to the Soviet attitude toward Berlin and Germany. This morning, February twenty-fourth, we received cabled extracts from the statement that he made today in Moscow that are seemingly even more belligerent and unyielding than those he has made in the past.

Presumably the conversations which you and he are carrying on should be producing a better atmosphere in which the West and the East can negotiate. By Khrushchev's own words he has no apparent interest in such a development. For example, he is quoted this morning as saying that, if the West should attempt to maintain contact with Berlin either by ground or by air, such an attempt would be considered a "threat of war."

To attempt to draw any conclusion as to his basic purpose in such statements would be nothing more than an exercise in speculation. However, it seems that he is intensifying his efforts to create division within the Western group and thus to weaken our resolution. In effect he is saying, "We are destroying the Western rights in Germany and in Berlin, and if you make any attempt to defend those rights you are guilty of aggression and warlike acts."

Tomorrow morning I shall probably have some searching questions put to me by the press respecting the latest statement of Khrushchev, and the rigidity of the line he is taking. I shall say as little as possible, particularly during the duration of your visit. However, I believe I should reiterate that the West is a unit in its determination to defend its rights and to carry out its responsibilities respecting Berlin, and that, while we are completely ready to negotiate where there is any possible negotiable ground, we are not going to be divided or defeated by threats.

With warm regard,

As ever,

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